ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

GRAFTON N.S.W.—SATURDAY, 26TH JANUARY TO TUESDAY, 5TH FEBRUARY, 1974

This workshop in human relations and community organization is open to Aboriginal people who wish to improve their leadership skills and develop an understanding of the changes taking place in Aboriginal society.

A grant from the Federal Department of Aboriginal Affairs makes it possible to invite thirty Aboriginal participants.

If you wish to attend, write for an application form, and return it as soon as possible to U.N.E. Department of University Extension, P.O. Box 284, Grafton, N.S.W. 2400. The suggested deadline is 6th December, 1973, but later applications will be considered if there are still vacancies.

Aboriginal associations are invited to nominate one or two representatives to attend, and to provide for their transportation and enrolment fee, if possible. Such nomination will be given serious consideration, but individual applications are also welcome.

Participants will be provided with accommodation and meals for the period of the workshop, and will receive partial compensation for wages which may have been lost. In a few cases it will be possible to help with transportation expenses, but most participants are asked to arrange for their own transport.

Description of the Programme

Most of the workshop sessions will consist of small group meetings or mini-communities which will study how groups work and how people relate to one another. The interests and concerns of the members of each group will determine what happens. The staff has had experience in group functioning and will be available to help, but will not dictate procedures. Staff members will try to help the groups use their own experiences to understand how organizations work and how relations between people can be improved.

In addition to the small group meetings, there will be general meetings on how to organize community projects and overcome resistance to change.

Who Will Participate

In past workshops conducted by the University of New England, most participants have been men and women involved in voluntary organizations, and some in full-time positions in government and private agencies concerned with Aboriginal Affairs. It is expected that some young Aboriginal people (in late teens and early twenties) will also participate.

Each participant will be invited to make plans for back-home activity while at the workshop, and asked to report when he returns to his community what progress he has made in reaching these goals.

Government and private agencies are asked to pay the full cost of sponsored participants, and ten persons can be enrolled in this category.